

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## Contact Person

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Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Peter A. Ahl, DOB 07/12/1963, of Eagle River, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to fourteen months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. On September 25, 2005, Ahl pleaded guilty to a two-count information that charged him with wilfully filing a false employment tax return, Form 941, for the year 2000; and a false income tax return, Form 1040, for the year 2000.

Ahl formerly owned and operated the Main Pub, 118 South Main Street, Eagle River, Wisconsin. Ahl paid his bartenders in cash and there was no withholding for tax purposes. In addition, Ahl kept a double set of books and reported substantially lower receipts on his tax returns than were actually received by the business. The total taxes evaded by Ahl during the years 1999 through 2001 was \$105,920.68.

At sentencing, Ahl admitted responsibility for his conduct, but asked for leniency because he was a bad businessman. Ahl also argued his criminal conviction for possession of marijuana in 2001 overstated the nature of his criminal history. The government argued for a sentence at the high end of the sentencing guidelines noting that Ahl is an admitted drug dealer, who had been selling marijuana from his home in



Eagle River while he owned the Main Pub, and cheated on his taxes.

The charges against Ahl were the result of an investigation conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division (Madison Office); the Eagle River Police Department; and the Vilas County Sheriff's Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John W. Vaudreuil and Daniel J. Graber.

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